

MATH 4613/5003 - Modern Algebra I - Fall 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Roger Zierau

OFFICE: MS502A

OFFICE HOURS: WF 1:30-2:20 p.m. (in MSCS 502A), M 1:30-2:20 (in the MLSC) and by appointment.

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TEXT: *Abstract Algebra*, third edition, by D. Dummit and R. Foote is the required textbook.

COURSE CONTENT: This course is the first of a two course sequence. Our goals for this semester are to understand the basics of group theory and to understand linear algebra some depth. This means we cover much of chapters 1-5 and most of Ch. 11 of the textbook, with a small amount of additional material. An important component in our work will be the enhancement of the skills of finding, constructing and writing clear proofs.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required.

GRADING: Regular homework will be assigned. Some of these exercises will be collected and graded. This homework is very important. It will count for a total of 100 points. There will be two exams, which will occur after Chapters 2 and 4. These exams will have an in-class part and a take-home part and will be worth 100 points each. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be worth 200 points. The final is on Monday, December 8 from 8:00 to 9:50 a.m. In addition, a few extra credit homework problems will be assigned.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows (however, it is likely that some slight curving may also take place):

- 450-500 points (90%): guaranteed A
- 400-449 points (80%): at least a B
- 325-399 points (65%): at least a C
- 300-324 points (60%): at least a D
- 0-299 points (below 60%): probable F.

MISSED WORK: Students shall be offered reasonable accommodation in the event that he or she misses an exam or is unable to turn in a homework assignment on time for a valid and documented reason. Valid reasons include official University activities, activities associated with military service, illness and family emergencies. Appropriate documentation shall be provided by the student in a timely fashion, preferably in advance, to support his or her request for accommodation.

D2L: This syllabus and some other information will be posted on D2L. Students should be sure to set their email on D2L to an address that they regularly use; certain announcements and reminders will be emailed to students using this address. However, there will be minimal use of D2L for this course.